

DECISION NOTICE
BLACKFOOT-CLEARWATER WMA PHASE II LAND EXCHANGES
June 4, 2001

INTRODUCTION

We have reviewed all information and comments received during preparation of the Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA Phase II Land Exchanges.

We have reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), including comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the responses to those comments, prepared for the Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA Phase II Land Exchanges. We have also reviewed comments received on the FEIS.

We have compared the alternatives to the project objectives and evaluated their advantages and disadvantages.

We have reviewed each identified issue and the analysis of environmental effects for each alternative displayed in the FEIS.

We have carefully compared the Proposed Decision in the FEIS to pertinent agency planning documents, including the FWP BCWMA Revised Management Plan (August 1989) and the DNRC State Forest Land Management Plan (June 1996).

DECISION

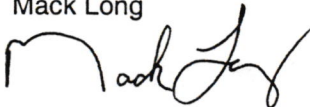
We have chosen to implement Alternative D, as described in the FEIS Proposed Decision section (FEIS, pages 36-42) without modification. Alternative D meets the Purpose of the Project and Project Objectives as displayed in the Proposed Decision section of the FEIS.

The rationale for choosing Alternative D is adequately explained in the FEIS, Proposed Decision section (FEIS, pages 40-42). We believe the potential environmental effects of the alternatives were adequately identified and analyzed in the FEIS. All public concerns, including those received after release of the FEIS, have been considered in our final decision.

We recommend that the Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA Phase II Land Exchanges proposal be submitted to the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission and the Montana Board of Land Commissioners for approval. It is scheduled to be heard by the FWP Commission on June 6, 2001 at 2:45 pm, and by the Board of Land Commissioners on June 18, 2001.

The agenda for the FWP Commission meeting was advertised on the FWP website and through a statewide press release during the week of May 20, 2001. A legal notice of the public hearing for the land exchanges at the Board of Land Commissioners meeting on June 18, appeared in the *Missoulian* and the *Deerlodge Silver State Post* newspapers during the week of May 20, 2001.

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